

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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DRAFTED BY NEA:ARLAY:LAB

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

NEA/ALATHERTON,JR

S/S:M.TANNER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

IMMEDIATE 4816

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NODIS

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (LINE OMITTED PARA 3 LINE 4)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE, SY

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION

1. FURTHER TO MY MESSAGE OF YESTERDAY TO PRINCE FAHD,
PLEASE CONVEY TO HIM THE FOLLOWING.

2. I WANT HIS HIGHNESS TO KNOW THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED A
NOTE FROM THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT, WHICH THE SOVIETS HAVE
ALREADY PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED, IMPLYING THAT UNITS OF THE U.S.
SIXTH FLEET IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN ARE THERE FOR
PURPOSES OF INTERVENING IN LEBANON. IN OUR REPLY, WE
INFORM THE SOVIETS, RELATIVE TO THE LEBANESE SITUATION,
THAT WE ARE SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A SOLUTION IN
LEBANON AND WE REMIND THEM OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO
SECRET

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PRESS FOR RESTRAINT ON THE PART OF THOSE LEBANESE FACTIONS
THEY SUPPORT, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY. (THE COMMUNIST PARTY
IN LEBANON, AS PRINCE FAHD NO DOUBT KNOWS, HAS ALIGNED
ITSELF WITH THOSE FORCES BACKING JUMBLATT.) WE ALSO

MAINTAIN THAT ALL RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENTS SHOULD DO EVERY-
THING POSSIBLE TO PREVAIL UPON THE FACTIONS IN LEBANON TO
SEEK A POLITICAL SOLUTION AND REFRAIN FROM FURTHER FIGHTING;
THAT WE WILL DO ALL WE CAN TO THIS END; AND THAT WE ARE
CONFIDENT, SO LONG AS OTHERS EXERCISE SIMILAR RESTRAINT,
THAT THE DANGERS OF THE PRESENT SITUATION DEVELOPING INTO
A WIDER CONFLICT CAN BE AVERTED.

3. I WANT PRINCE FAHD TO KNOW THAT OUR NAVAL UNITS ARE
IN THE AREA TO ASSIST IN EVACUATION SHOULD THE LEBANESE
SITUATION DEVELOP IN SUCH A WAY THAT THIS BECOMES
NECESSARY, AND THEY CONSTITUTE A WARNING AGAINST
INTERVENTION BY THE USSR.

4. I WANT ALSO TO BRING PRINCE FAHD UP TO DATE ON
AMBASSADOR BROWN'S ACTIVITIES IN LEBANON. IN BROWN'S
MEETING APRIL 2 WITH JUMBLATT, THE LATTER DESCRIBED HIS
OBJECTIVES IN TERMS THAT WOULD REQUIRE MAJOR CHANGES IN
THE LEBANESE POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SYSTEM AND HE DID NOT
RULE OUT A RESUMPTION OF FIGHTING IF HE IS UNABLE TO GET
THE REFORMS HE WANTS. BROWN EMPHASIZED TO JUMBLATT THAT
THE MAJOR CHANGES HE SEEKS ARE UNREALISTIC IN CURRENT
CIRCUMSTANCES AND WARNED HIM OF THE DANGERS OF THE
SITUATION IF THE CEASEFIRE IS NOT MAINTAINED AND A
POLITICAL SOLUTION, INCLUDING THE CONSTITUTIONAL ELECTION
OF A NEW PRESIDENT, IS NOT RAPIDLY ACHIEVED.

5. I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE PRINCE FAHD KNOW THAT, HOWEVER
GRATIFIED WE ARE BY THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A CEASEFIRE, I AM
SERIOUSLY CONCERNED THAT THE LEBANESE FACTIONS WILL BE
UNABLE TO AGREE ON THE COMPLEX STEPS THEY MUST NOW TAKE
IN A RELATIVELY SHORT TIME. IF THE LEFTISTS UNDER
JUMBLATT RENEW FIGHTING IN AN EFFORT TO OBTAIN THEIR
DEMANDS, IT IS ALL TOO LIKELY THAT SERIOUS DETERIORATION
WILL RESULT THAT ULTIMATELY COULD LEAD TO ISRAELI INTER-
VENTION IN LEBANON. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES IT IS
CRITICALLY IMPORTANT THAT ALL GOVERNMENTS THAT HAVE AN
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INTEREST IN LEBANON'S WELL BEING AND THAT HAVE SOME
INFLUENCE IN THE COUNTRY STRONGLY URGE THE GROUPS
INVOLVED--BOTH LEBANESE AND PALESTINIAN--TO ACCEPT
REASONABLE COMPROMISES AND ABOVE ALL TO MAINTAIN THE
CEASEFIRE. I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT
CAN PARTICULARLY IMPRESS UPON ARAFAT, WHO SEEMS IN SOME
WAYS TO BE A KEY TO JUMBLATT'S ABILITY TO RENEW FIGHTING,
THAT HE MUST KEEP THE PALESTINIAN GROUPS FROM RESUMING
THE CONFLICT.

6. I WOULD, AS ALWAYS, WELCOME PRINCE FAHD'S ASSESSMENT
OF THE SITUATION IN LEBANON AS WE PROCEED INTO THIS
CRITICAL AND POSSIBLY DECISIVE PERIOD OF LEBANESE

HISTORY. KISSINGER

SECRET

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 15 SEP 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, ARMISTICE, PFOR, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, NAVAL SHIPS, DIPLOMATIC NOTES, POLITICAL SITUATION, PROGRESS REPORT S, DISSIDENT FACTIONS, CAT-C
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE081261
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA:ARDAY:LAB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197604115/baaaeokt.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUN 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <15 OCT 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANESE SITUATION
TAGS: PFOR, PEPR, LE, SY, US, UR, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (FAHD, PRINCE), (JUMBLATT, KAMAL)
To: JIDDA NIACT INFO BEIRUT
4816
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006